



**RESPONSE TO REQUEST FOR
INFORMATION LEAGUE OF WOMEN
VOTERS OF TEXAS HOUSE ELECTIONS
COMMITTEE
SUBMITTED FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 2020**

I am Cinde Weatherby, forwarding information as a member and on behalf of the League of Women Voters of Texas (LWVTX) in response to the Committee's Formal Request for Information regarding three interim charges to the House Elections Committee. We appreciate the opportunity to add our voice and information to your collection of information regarding these three important charges. Thank you.

LWVTX submits to the Committee that each charge in the Committee's Request for Information reflects the need for modernizing our state's elections system.

In recent times, our own organization faced the same need. Upon fully embracing modernization of our systems, we see a drastic improvement in member and public engagement. It also empowers us to assist the public in directly connecting to the official and factual resources of the Secretary of State and county election offices. The worldwide health crisis exponentially magnifies the need for safe, modern systems in every aspect of our state's voting process. For Texas to best serve its citizens, LWVTX suggests that the House Elections Committee interim report emphasize this overarching need for special attention during the 87th Session to issues enumerated in each of the three interim charges.

Interim Charge 2

LWVTX does not presume to offer recommendations of best practices for conducting elections during declared disasters. Any previous state statutes never imagined the pandemic environment that we experience. We believe much is being learned and observed that should be valuable to lawmakers considering legislative or regulatory changes.

Like many state legislative topics, [NCSL maintains records^{xi}](#) of the existing statutes that could be used as building blocks for Texas legislation. Presumably there will be no shortage of attention being given to an evaluation of how states reacted in the nine months leading to Nov. 3, 2020. The dust will unlikely be settled from that exercise to draft specific legislation for this coming session. However, the session could be used to form a task force with representation from public and private entities to make recommendations.

